

HOUSE RESOLUTION 330  
By Yokley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William Clay Blazer of  
Cocke County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of William Clay Blazer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blazer was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, William Clay "Bill" Blazer was born in 1947 as the first and only child to the late H.C. and Bertha Blazer; and

WHEREAS, one of his proudest accomplishments was going to school in a two-room schoolhouse where his mother taught; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, Bill Blazer graduated from Parrottsville High School, where he was inspired by his mentor, Liston Davis, to attend Carson-Newman and pursue a career in teaching; and

WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, Bill Blazer served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher in Cocke County, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and students alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blazer began his teaching career at Parrottsville High School, an institution that he fought to keep open, but was eventually closed in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blazer inspired his students in the same fashion that Liston Davis had inspired him; Bill Blazer's students became the next generation of doctors, lawyers, military officers, teachers, and other noble professions; and

WHEREAS, one of Mr. Blazer's students won the Tennessee Teacher of the Year award and cited Mr. Blazer as a driving force behind her teaching career; and

WHEREAS, Bill Blazer lived by the motto, originated by Jesse Stuart, that states, "I am firm in my belief that a teacher lives on and on through his students. Good teaching is forever and the teacher is immortal"; and

WHEREAS, the impact of Bill Blazer's teaching is immeasurable; he was a positive influence on countless young lives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blazer's only absence from teaching was to pursue another form of public service: elected office; he was the first county executive, elected in 1978, and he was later elected as a CLB member for the Second Legislative District in Cocke County in 1982; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a dedicated teacher, Bill Blazer also ran a family farm; and

WHEREAS, Bill Blazer will be warmly remembered for his love and passion for his community and his fearlessness when taking a stand on an issue of importance to him; and

WHEREAS, in memory of Bill Blazer's many contributions to Cocke County, the Bill Blazer Memorial Scholarship Drive will be founded and funded in part by a the scholarship drive to be held on May 15, 2004; and

WHEREAS, this scholarship is a continuation of the legacy that Bill Blazer created; he was deeply concerned with the educational opportunities of the students in his community; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional and public servant, he epitomized the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blazer was a devout member of the Parrottsville United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Bill Blazer was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, William Clay Blazer enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Dolly Blazer, and was the proud father of April Blazer, Laura Forbes; and Clay Blazer; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by his son-in-law, Randy Forbes; brothers and sisters-in-law, Ronnie and Debbie Hommel and Guy Jr. and Gayla Hommel; his mother and father-in-law, Guy and Magda Hommel; his grandchildren, Caven and Kylie Forbes; his special nieces and nephews, Dustin, Duayne, Derek, and Marissa Hommel; his special daughter, Nikki Coggins-Rouleau; and a host of other friends and family members; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents and his infant daughter, Emily Lee Blazer; and

WHEREAS, William Clay Blazer leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of William Clay Blazer, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Blazer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.